

We claim:

1. A crystalline choline ascorbate

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2. A crystalline choline ascorbate as claimed in claim 1 in the form of crystals free from water of crystallization.

10 3. A crystalline choline ascorbate as claimed in either of claims 1 or 2, wherein the diffraction lines at  $d = 3.80 \text{ \AA}$  and  $4.55 \text{ \AA}$  are most intense in the range between 3.40 and 4.70  $\text{\AA}$  in the  $2\Theta$  X-ray powder diffractogram

15 4. A crystalline choline ascorbate as claimed in claim 3, wherein the intensity ratio of the diffraction lines at  $d = 3.80 \text{ \AA}$  and  $d = 4.55 \text{ \AA}$  is at least 0.5.

20 5. A crystalline choline ascorbate as claimed in claim 3, wherein the intensity ratio of the diffraction lines at  $d = 3.80 \text{ \AA}$  and  $d = 4.67 \text{ \AA}$  is at least 0.4.

25 6. A process for preparing crystalline choline ascorbate by reacting ascorbic acid with trimethylamine and ethylene oxide, which comprises carrying out the reaction in the temperature range from  $-10^\circ\text{C}$  to  $40^\circ\text{C}$ .

7. A process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the reaction is carried out in a water-miscible organic solvent.

30 8. A process as claimed in claim 7, wherein choline ascorbate is crystallized in the solvent used for the reaction.

9. A choline ascorbate obtainable by a process defined according to one of claims 6 to 8.

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10. The use of choline ascorbate defined according to one of claims 1 or 9 for producing drugs.

40 11. The use of choline ascorbate defined according to one of claims 1 or 9 as additive in foods, animal feeds, or as a component in food supplements.